

# INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY China

DATE DISTR. 15 SEP 1949

SUBJECT Conditions in Peiping

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1. In Peiping there is no campaign of terrorism in educational institutions for the purpose of getting teaching staffs and students to conform to Communist regulations and to teach and accept Communist doctrine. There is no need for such a campaign because neither teachers nor students venture on any excursions into heterodoxy. Whereas at first the students were enthusiastic over the new, required courses in Marxism, in recent months they have lost interest and are absent whenever possible. There is much criticism of Communist propaganda efforts among students and teachers, who complain that this propaganda is infantile and insulting to their intelligence, since it appears to be aimed at farmers and coolies.
2. Contacts between most foreigners and their Chinese friends are fairly free and frequent. Chinese friends, even those holding official positions, spoke freely of their activities.
3. There is fairly open admission on the part of the Communists that there exists within the Chinese Communist Party a difference of opinion over the question whether the Party's best interests would be served by accommodation with the Western Powers or by continued subservience to the USSR. The pro-Soviet faction is headed by LIU Shao-chi\*. The other faction is headed by CHOU En-lai.
4. Many of the military leaders are inclined to support CHOU. LIN Piao has reputedly said on many occasions that he has fought against foreign imperialism all of his life, and that he has not done so in order to facilitate the spread of Soviet imperialism in China. MAO Tse-tung has shown no indication that he supports either faction; he appears to be trying to act as an impartial umpire between LIU and CHOU. He favored the latter by giving him the main role in the preparation for and conduct of the Political Consultative Conference (PCC).
5. MAO Tse-tung has three residences in the Peiping area, one at the Hunting Park, the second at the Jade Cloud Temple (Pi Yun SSu), and a third in the West City. The entire Hunting Park area, even beyond the precincts of MAO's residence, is heavily guarded.

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1953 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.  
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50X1-HUM

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- 2 -

no further. A new surfaced highway is being built from the Western environs of Peiping into the Hunting Park.

6. The Hsin Peiping area, west of the city proper, is being developed as a residential site for the functionaries of the new government. This project is in the hands of the noted Chinese architect, LIANG Ssu-cheng (梁思成), who is also in charge of the designing and construction of the new buildings for the new government. It is now planned that the main ones will be built on the Glacis, to the east and north of the Legation Quarter.
7. The French Bookstore [redacted] still operates in the lobby of the Grande Hotel de Pekin, though that hotel is otherwise entirely given over to the housing of Communist officials and members of the Kuomintang Revolutionary Committee and the Democratic League, who are in Peiping for the convening of the PCC.
8. Customers of the bookstore are allowed to enter the lobby of the hotel simply by giving their purpose. The bookstore is well patronized by the Communists. In late July an extremely prominent book display included a large stack of CHIANG Kai-shek's China's Destiny and an equally large stack of Kravchenko's I Chose Freedom.

\* [redacted] Comment. LIU Shao-chi, as secretary of the Central Political Bureau, probably has more power in the implementation of policy than any other person in Communist China. His lines of control run in the political sphere, through the various regional political bureaus, and in the military sphere, through the political commissars, down as far as the platoon level.

50X1-HUM

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